Wellesley College News

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Class of 1940 Votes For Minor Offices

Anno Tiebout Presents Gavel to Beth Bryson, President of the Freshmon Class

The class of 1940 held its first meeting under its new president, Beth Bryson, Thursday afternoon, December 10, at 3:40 in Billings hall. Katherine Forsyth '38 introduced 39's president, Anna Tiebout, who, on behalf of her class, welcomed 1940, as it took its place as an organized group among the classes. Anna Tiebout presented the class gavel to Beth Bryson. Voting for minor offices followed, and Peggy Van Wagenen was announced vice-president. The other officers elected were announced after chapel on Friday morning. They are: recording secretary, Elizabeth Gregory; corresponding secretary, Rebecca Jackson; treasurer, Marjorie Jones; executive committee, June Bowman, Margaret Hudson, and Elizabeth Van Wie; factotum, Cherry Devereux and Myra Ann Graf.

MATH CLUB HAS DISCUSSION

The Mathematics club met on Wednesday evening, December 9, at 7:30. The meeting opened with a game, which Miss Helen Russell of the mathematics department won. Margaret Devlon '38 read a paper on *Mayan Number Systems*, and Grace Mandeville '38 discussed the growth and the advantages of a number system.

The meeting ended with refreshments and singing.

Seamen On Strike Depict Sordid Spectacle In Analysis Of Desperate Shipping Walkout

The appalling living conditions to which seamen manning nine out of ten vessels in the American merchant marine are subjected, and the utter corruption of the International Seamen's union officials were exposed on December 14 by Mr. Hill and Mr. Schnyer, members of the I. S. U., speaking before the economics 308 class. Explaining the seamen's, longshoremen's and drydockmen's strike, which was declared on both the east and west coasts of this country November 1, both Mr. Hill and Mr. Schnyer said, "We are not out to kill. We want a chance to earn an honest living. We have been waiting for this chance twenty years. And now we're going to straighten things out once and for all."

Mr. Hill spoke first, giving a history of the merchant marine since 1900, when it was first taken over by the government. Although it had started with fair living conditions and a wage of $90 a month, management of the merchant marine grew steadily worse. Finally when the steel-insulated quarters, vermin-infested food and unspeakable sanitary conditions became unbearable, the seamen struck. This was in 1921, and at that time a union had been organized. The strikers were unable to effect any improvement through their unions, because even at that time the companies simply paid off the officials of the union to keep the workers quiet.

Again they declared a strike on the West Coast, in 1934, and again any attempt to make steamship owners come to an agreement was unsuccessful. It was another case of bribery of the union officials; that, and mass slaughter, on both sides, of strikers and California police. One particular aspect of the motivation for strike was the gambling in lives done by the most "respectable" of companies, by shipping disgracefully unseaworthy vessels. Notorious among these was the *Morro Castle*. Among other lines responsible for unnecessary deaths and suffering are the Dollar line, the Eastern Steamship line, American-Hawaiian and United Fruit lines.

Mr. Hill's own words depict best the force of his accusations:

"We want safety at sea. You've never seen people drown like rats. If you had you could never forget it. I've seen my buddy drown. You can't forget those death cries. . . . You hear them in your sleep. You hear them when you're walking down the street. We're not fooling people. We've got facts. And unless something is done, a lot of us is going to die. A lot of others of you is going to die too, because we don't die sitting down."

Following Mr. Hill's talk, Mr. Schnyer offered to answer questions. He threw considerable light on the situation within the union itself. The grafting officials in control at present have gradually changed the constitution to eliminate the provisions at first made for expulsion of officials. Some of them, for example Mr. David Grange, claim to have bought the charters outright; thousands of dollars are misappropriated; some of the funds are used to break up strikes in other regions. Men of such criminal character are in for life, said Mr. Schnyer, and it is they who intimidate the ship owners. Men, otherwise perfectly willing to negotiate, are afraid of being charged for making dual agreements and therefore refuse to come to terms with the seamen. Thus it is that the terms of most agreements are dictated by the grafting union officials; thus it is that last summer's agreement, turned down in a popular referendum 8 to 1, was pushed upon union members.

Furthermore, stated Mr. Schnyer, they cannot cut loose and start another organization. There are laws against dual organization, and the I. S. U. wishes to keep its connection with the A. F. of L. "even though," remarked Mr. Schnyer with a twinkle in his eye, "we know what *that* organization is." Mr. Schnyer is of the opinion that the matter must be settled legally. Once they are rid of this disgraceful graft, their negotiations with ship owners may bring about improvement in living conditions, wages and working hours. Until this happens they are willing to continue their strike. "I'd as soon starve on shore as at sea," concluded Mr. Schnyer fervently.

College To See Olympic Skater

Winter Carnival will Feature Miss Mirabel Vinson, Sent by N. Y. 'Times'

SCULPTURE CONTEST

One of the outstanding features of the winter carnival will be Miss Mirabel Vinson, Olympic figure skater, who will give an exhibition at the ice carnival, Friday evening, January 23. There will be a dinner at Tower court that evening, in honor of Miss Vinson. Wellesley is very grateful to the New York *Times*, which is sending us this feature attraction.

Another of the many interesting events prepared for carnival week-end is a snow sculpture contest, open to everyone. Designs for the contest should be placed in a box provided for the purpose in the art museum by January 13. The best of these will be chosen for competition. The designer may have as many helpers as she needs in executing her work, and the final judges will be Miss Myrtilla Avery, Miss Agnes Abbott, and Miss Hilda Scudder of the art department.

Information is being secured from Dartmouth on the technique of snow sculpture, and it will be published on the art museum bulletin board.

Follow the News for further information regarding the event.

Shop Early If Ever, Preferably Never; Follow Rules Below And Die

You would not feel that way now, Gentle Reader, if you had started your Christmas shopping at the time recommended—that is, early. Say about last August. You might have been through now except for the ones you forgot. Those you always have with you. They sit on your bed and grin at you in the bleak grey dawn. And since you have done little or none of yours, an even more large and varied congregation of friends and relatives inhabits your narrow couch. There is no getting around it. This is the season of Love and Good Will, but it will not be unless you get busy. The best way is to be methodical.

Your first step should be a list. Adding-machine paper (the kind in long rolls) is necessary for a genuine and proper one. You place on it the names of everyone you can think of, in no order whatsoever. Then a sort of game like solitaire is played, the goal being a possible gift beside each name. If you get them, you win. If not, somebody loses. This list must not be considered as final or even very helpful, for ninety-eight and twelve forty-sevenths of these proposed gifts will be (1) too expensive, or (2) not carried by any store you visit, or (3) sold out, or (4) simply funny looking. Your incomplete list should not worry you for one moment, because your second step, following instantly the first, is to lose it.

You then (step number three) set out minus list on the uncharted sea of Christmas shoppers. This, my friends of the Procrastinators' Ancient and Honorable Guild, is the most fun. Every man, woman and child in yours and all the surrounding boroughs scorns the lowly pavements and walks exclusively upon your already burdened pedal extremities. The elbow is used as a battering ram, most effective in the small of the back. Revolving doors are kept in their silly circulations at an alarming rate of speed, and you will find yourself shot into the corset department without a warning word. During this excursion you are supposed to be thinking, and selecting gifts intelligently according to the personal likes, dislikes, and needs of the poor soul who must simulate delight Christmas morn. The moh Christmas spirit gives one an excellent understanding of hermits, and home is sweet even though trite.

But you are not through. For our fourth step we must wrap. If you cannot fold paper over the corners of boxes you cannot fold paper over the corners of boxes, and it is well to realize the fact. There are, I believe, professional wrappers; or if there aren't, there should be.

Complicated and wearing as the gift situation is, it is further made intolerable if you are suffering from the usual end-of-the-month pauperism. You cannot make both ends meet when the list is so long you cannot find the ends. But your credit account you always have with you, and next January, your creditors. So be of good cheer, and the whole problem will simmer down to boxes of candy at the drugstore on Christmas morning. And a Merry one.

What's In A Book?

(ACP)—Books and the moods they create are divorcing Jack C. von Bloeker, University of California student, from his wife. Alleging that her husband spent all his time studying, Mrs. von Bloeker filed suit for divorce.

She charged cruelty, complaining that since their marriage von Bloeker has not stopped reading his texts.

HOME-COMING BRINGS USUAL BRAIN STORMS

The Christmas spirit is with us again and we have the urge to go around sniffing evergreens, poking fingers into mince pies, and tying up the bonnie brown hair with red ribbon. This general air of festivity and excitement manifests itself in strange ways; we spill more perfume, break more glassware and lose more umbrellas than in any other period of the year. Insomnia, also, is prevalent for various peculiar reasons.

In the railroad office we heard two girls bewailing their lack of sleep because of the worry over the devastating problem of how to arrive in the hometown fashionably about 7 p. m., for a brass band reception, rather than at the uninteresting hour of 9:30 in the morning. The agent was very sympathetic and finally mapped out a route requiring 9 hours in New York, a sleeper, and a detour 70 miles out of the way. Getting home a day and a half late is a small matter compared with staging the proper grand entrance.

We, who have never succeeded yet in having our train met by anyone other than a red-cap, bought an ordinary common-garden, one way ticket to New York, feeling very unimaginative and devoid of glamour.

PHYSICS GROUP MEETS HERE

The Eastern association of Physics teachers held their one hundred and thirty fourth meeting at Pendleton hall on Saturday, December 12, 1936. The program started with a meeting of the executive committee at 9:45 a. m. followed by a business meeting with reports on magazine literature and new books and current events. At 10:30 there was a display and demonstration of the new apparatus. At 11:00 Professor Louise S. McDowell gave lecture experiments in radio frequency oscillations. The meeting ended with an inspection of the laboratories.

Miss Der Nersessian Will Receive 'Docteur Des Lettres' From Sorbonne

With characteristic modesty, Miss Sirarpie Der Nersessian of the art department told her classes that she would not be in college for the last day before vacation. To some she said she was going to Paris. It was only by a lucky accident that the roving reporter heard of the reason for her visit, and the signal honor that is to be bestowed upon her in Paris. When cornered she graciously granted an interview.

The degree which Miss Der Nersessian is to receive is that of Docteur Des Lettres, the highest degree given in France. The award is based on two books which the applicant must publish and present to a jury of professors. These books must be deemed important in their field. The two books which Miss Der Nersessian presented were, *Illustration du Roman de Barlaam et Joasaph*, the study of an illuminated Byzantine manuscript never before published, and *Manuscrits Arméniens Illustrés*, which is the study of other Armenian manuscripts.

Miss Der Nersessian started her first book in 1921 and the second in 1927. Both are written in French. She has been lecturing on part of this subject this year at the Morgan library in New York where she goes every week-end. The lectures are sponsored by the library and the graduate schools of Columbia and New York university.

Miss Der Nersessian left college on Tuesday, sailing December 18 on the *Bremen*, and returning December 30 on the *Lafayette*. Since her home is in Paris the trip will afford her a chance to visit her friends during the holidays. The day of the conferment of the degree is December 23 when, from one to six in the afternoon, at a session which is open to the public, the jury of professors criticize her books while she must defend them. The Sorbonne then confers the degree.

Miss Der Nersessian was born in Constantinople, and attended both Armenian and English schools. She spent three years in Geneva at the university as a student. Since 1919 she has studied in Paris, and become a naturalized French citizen. She has written a number of articles both in French and in English, but no other books.

She taught in Paris, lecturing at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes at the Sorbonne on Byzantine art. She came to America and Wellesley in 1930, and has not taught anywhere else in this country except for one course in New York in 1931, and the lectures at the Morgan library this year. She expects to continue to live in America, and wants to study some manuscripts which are in private collections in America for her next book. The reporter wonders in which of her seven languages she will write it.

Students Save Rubbish

(ACP)—"Rags, rags, old newspapers." Girls at New Jersey College for Women don't actually go around from house to house shouting for old rubbish, but they do save it.

In order to boost their gym fund, they sell all rags and newspapers. A while ago they put their gym fund pack on the "silver-paper" standard by collecting tin foil from candy bars, gum, and other articles, taking in $9.66 from this venture.

Correction

The following statement appeared in the News for December 10 under the headline "Mr. Leahy Speaks To Newman Club": "The speaker listed Hilaire Belloc, Sheila Kay-Smith, Francis Thompson, and W. B. Yeats among the more modern Catholic poets of note." The sentence should have stated that Belloc is a noted Catholic historian, Sheila Kay-Smith, a novelist. Although W. B. Yeats is a poet he is not a Catholic.

Scholar Honors Great Humanist

Professor Rand Discusses the Works of Erasmus, Scholar of the Renaissance

MISS McAFEE SPEAKS

"Erasmus, thou shoulds't be living at this hour." This casual remark with which Professor Edward Kennard Rand interrupted his own lecture describes the eternal character of the man, Desiderius Erasmus, which Professor Rand emphasized most strongly in his lecture on the great scholar of the fifteenth century. Professor Rand, who is professor of Latin at Harvard university, spoke in Pendleton hall last Thursday evening at 8:30. He was introduced by President Mildred Helen McAfee, who first gave a review of the speaker's life, comparing his academic pursuits of the twentieth century to those of his predecessor, Erasmus.

Erasmus and the Wisdom of Folly was the subject of the lecture. Professor Rand began by enumerating the faults of the scholar as they are revealed by the damning evidence of his letters. In these letters historians have found justification in calling Erasmus self-centered, irritable, shifty, disloyal—a mendicant and a parasite who thought that "the world owed him a living." However, a more critical approach to the inner nature of the man was suggested by Professor Rand who declared, "It takes a little mind to make out of Erasmus a little man."

The evidence which the lecturer cited for the true character of Erasmus is to be found in the eleven stout folios of his works, and in the actual life of the man which could by no means be called physically comfortable. Out of the "Enduring Enigma," which is Erasmus, the professor drew two conclusions. His first assertion was that Erasus was no coward; the second assertion, that Erasmus was a Catholic fundamentally opposed to Luther.

The incidents which Professor Rand related from Erasmus' life were the milestones of his worldly career. Beginning with his illegitimate birth in 1466 or 1467, the professor mentioned his education as a priest, his membership in the Augustinian brotherhood, and his study for the doctors degree of divinity in Paris. He told of Erasmus' travels with Henry VIII in Italy, when he served the king of England in the capacity of tutor. His friendship with Colet and Sir Thomas More was indicated as an important influence in his life; Professor Rand also spoke of the scholar's professorship at Queen's College, Cambridge. "In his determination to advance true learning as the crying need of his times, his will was of iron," Professor Rand declared in summing up the direction of Erasmus' scholarly efforts. Erasmus died in 1536.

The religious program which More and Erasmus worked at together was a renaissance of theology, not a reformation. It was farthest from the thoughts of Erasmus and his friends to dispense with the teachings of the church; they rather looked to support the early Christian doctrines of the church. Professor Rand pointed to St. Jerome as the ideal of Erasmus' theological teachings and called attention to the similarity of the two men's efforts against the corruption in the church. Indicating the continuous striving for theological reforms and intellectual enlightenment of the people as Erasmus' guiding principle, Professor Rand asked if it was any wonder that the scholar thought the world owed him a living.

After the general survey of Erasmus' life, the lecturer turned to consider that work of the scholar which he considers most valuable, *The Praise of Folly*, dedicated to More. Erasmus was undoubtedly "one of those rare masters of the comic spirit" and it is in this encomium that the reader may find the pure spirit of comedy.

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MR. LASH ADDRESSES A. S. U. CONFERENCE

Students also Heor Speaker from International Seamen's Union On Shipping Conditions

Over forty enthusiastic and alert students from the Boston area attended the Boston district conference of the American Student union held on Sunday at the Metropolitan student headquarters. By the intelligent and critical consideration given to the problems for discussion these delegates representing ten college chapters testified to the growing strength of the progressive student movement in Boston.

Joseph Lash, national secretary of the American Student union, held the floor for over three quarters of an hour while he discussed the problems, privileges (few and far between) and duties of the national office and the officers, James Wechsler, Celeste Strack, Molly Yard and himself.

"Perhaps the most encouraging indication of the growth of the student movement," said Mr. Lash, "is the rise in the membership. The combined membership of the ASU's parent organizations, the League for Industrial Democracy and the National Student League, was about four thousand members; the ASU claims the allegiance of 20,000 members. The latest figures resulting from the campaign show an increase in total paid up membership of over 6,000 members.

Aside from financial difficulties which are the fate of an organization born and conceived in time of depression, Mr. Lash emphasized the importance of dramatizing local issues and relating them to the larger issues of the ASU platform. Joseph Shill

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Leaders Debate On Government

Mr. Ratcliffe Opposes Fascism of Mr. Dennis, Who Stresses Trend of Nationalism

QUESTION—RIGHT OR LEFT

Discussing a choice of *Democracy vs. Dictatorship from Right or Left?*, Mr. Lawrence Dennis, Mr. S. K. Ratcliffe, Mr. Paul M. Sweezy, and Mr. Norton E. Long showed lively disagreement at the Foreign Policy meeting in the Copley Plaza on December 12.

Mr. Dennis, representing the fascist point of view, stated that the issue today lies between the traditional laissez-faire system and a new program of government. Germany, Italy, and Russia, have a democracy of a real sort in their spirit of social equality, not to be found in England. Mr. Dennis sees tendencies toward dictatorship in America and England in the trend toward a one party system and the unusual measures for social recovery.

In this country, Mr. Dennis continued, we must enforce our nationalism, training our young people in those ideals, rather than our internationalism, which can only lead to another so-called "holy crusade" in Europe, which will gain us nothing. We must work out internal solutions for our internal problems, and this program, said Mr. Dennis, is called fascism.

Mr. Ratcliffe accused Mr. Dennis of being too vague in outlining the fascist program. That American nationalism coincides with fascism is a remark-

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C. A. NOTES

C. A. Tea

Eliot J. Taylor will speak at the C. A. tea at 4:00 o'clock on January 14. For five or six years Mr. Taylor taught in the Albanian Agricultural School, an organization under the joint sponsorship of the Near East Foundation and the Albanian Government. Mr. Taylor will talk on the less progressive of the Albanian people, and will show what they have accomplished in the past few years. He will illustrate his lecture by colored moving pictures of the native schools and costumes.

Discussion Groups

On the first three Wednesdays after Christmas vacation at 7:30 p. m. C. A. and the Bible department will sponsor three religious discussions under the leadership of Leslie Glenn, Rector of Christ Church, Cambridge. Mr. Glenn will give a short talk, and afterwards any questions that present themselves will be answered.

CLASSICAL CLUB MEETS

At the second meeting of the Classical club on December 9 Ann Edwards read a paper on Lucretius, Elizabeth Johnson spoke on Aeschylus's ideas of Zeus, Miss Taylor described the Saturnalia; and three members presented *Al Cemeon*, a parody on Greek tragedy. Miss Miller, Mrs. Hodder, Miss Law, Miss McCarthy, Miss Robothan and Miss Taylor of the faculty were present.

Spaniard Gives History Of War

Senora de Palencia Believes Troubles Originate in 16th Century Decline

NOT REVOLT, INVASION

Senora Isabel de Palencia in a moving speech explained to Wellesley, Monday, December 14, what she considered the cause of the present crisis in her country, Spain, and its probable outcome.

Senora de Palencia believes that the basis of the trouble must be sought in history. After Spain's days of glory in the 15th century, there followed a long period of decadence in all lines of Spanish culture. In 1921 the people of Spain, seemingly asleep and disinterested, received a shock that woke them from their apathy. In Morocco, there occurred a disaster that cost the lives of 10,000 Spaniards. Men and women, of all classes, were brought together by a common bond, and demanded of the government knowledge of who was responsible. A commission of all parties was authorized to investigate and report to Parliament.

Before Parliament met in September, 1923, the Spanish people suddenly found themselves under the dictatorship of Prima de Rivera, taking it upon himself to keep the investigation from being published. For seven years there was no liberty of thought or speech. In 1930 the King tried to do away with the dictator. In 1931, there was an overthrow of the monarchy and establishment of a republic by popular election.

The republic called a general election to select constituents to draw up

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THE PEREGRINATING PRESS

PERRY has heard that children are always polite just before Christmas but he thinks one girl is carrying it too far. The other day she went to get something from her closet, stepped on one of her shoes, and exclaimed abjectly, "Oh, pardon me!"

* * *

A senior member of Phi Sigma was showing Perry and some friends through the house. She showed him the living room, and the library, and the kitchen. Finally she said proudly, "And down in the basement we have a very nice game room." The group descended the stairs to find a furnace and a woodpile. The senior looked blank. "Well," she said, in a disappointed tone, "I guess it's Agora that has a game room."

* * *

OCCASIONALLY Perry deserts Wellesley and wanders into Cambridge. Not long ago, as he was browsing through the Widener library, he heard one of the bright lads come in and ask for "A musical comedy by some Italian." After a few gentle questions from the librarian, it was found that he wanted *The Divine Comedy* by Dante.

* * *

IT wasn't very nice of Perry but he just couldn't help over-hearing a sophomore's prayer. She knelt by her bed the night before the Bible quiz and said, "Dear God, this one is for you."

* * *

"WHAT did you think the theme of *Rain from Heaven* was?", Perry heard a junior ask her escort. "Hugo your way and I'll go mine," he replied.

* * *

PERRY saw a sophomore approach a saleswoman in Davis' and heard her say, "Can you help me choose gifts for my nine children? To avoid scenes I want the same gift for all of them." The look on the saleswoman's face made her quickly add, "Oh, these are only children I teach at a settlement house."

PERRY heard a certain professor ask one of her pupils why the Portuguese lost so many of their monopolies. "Their agriculture wasn't well developed," replied the girl. "My dear child," said the professor patiently, "a battle isn't won with cow"

* * *

HEARD at a dance during this past week-end's festivities: A girl cutting in on the gentleman of her affections, saying, "Come on, worm, let's wiggle."

* * *

ONE of the young ladies of Wellesley was having her hair set, prior to the big event of Fall Formals. Conversation reverted to the English situation. Perry heard the attendant at the Beauty parlor state in a very knowing voice, "It really doesn't matter much about King Edward. He was only the flower behind the throne."

* * *

PERRY decided to follow the maid in one of the campus houses around one day, just to see what the work entailed. The maid caught one girl on the first floor and told her that she had a caller. The girl replied that she had to go upstairs anyway, but would come down again in a few minutes. Absent-mindedly, the maid followed her into the elevator, and, halfway between the first and second floors, suddenly exclaimed: "What on earth am I doing up here?", and had to travel all the way back alone.

* * *

PERRY was interested in currency, so he sat in on a recent history class, and was much enlightened about the whole situation when one of the students exclaimed: "I don't understand why they find so many coins; we don't excavate any around here."

Perry the Pressman

Lecturer Discusses Humanist, Erasmus

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The book, a fantasy, was planned while Erasmus was traveling over the Alps, and written in seven short days of the year 1509. *Praise of Folly* was widely condemned by the church, and in defending the book, Erasmus justifies himself, "I am laughing at folly, not flagillating vice."

Professor Rand elaborated on the literary form of the *Praise of Folly*, describing it as an encomium in which Folly is the speaker, and she herself is the object of her praise. The effect of this form—ridiculing the third person in terms of the first—is to make the reader wonder, "does he really mean himself or does he mean me?" A serious intent underlies the pure comedy of *Praise of Folly* however, as it implies that only fools speak the truth. This is a universal idea existing in all culture and bearing an eternal quality. On the expression of such universal truth Professor Rand bases his assertion that Erasmus possesses the eternal quality of true greatness.

Mentioning the canonization of More, the professor expressed a sincere wish that the great scholar and thinker of the fifteenth century might also some day be canonized Saint Desiderius Erasmus.

The first public recognition of the four-hundredth anniversary of the death of Erasmus in the college was made by Professor Edith C. Johnson when she led college chapel on Erasmus day, November 18. In her talk, Miss Johnson summed up the significance of Erasmus as a world figure.

MR. LASH ADDRESSES A. S. U. CONFERENCE

Students also Hear Speaker from International Seamen's Union On Shipping Conditions

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from M. I. T. affirmed Mr. Lash's pleas for action on local issues by describing the possibilities in the R. O. T. C. situation at Tech. Jerry Himelhoch from Harvard told of the successful activities of the Harvard chapter centering around local issues, an investigation of civil liberties in Cambridge, and support of the local Labor party during the last election.

"The strength of the American Student union," concluded Mr. Lash, "depends upon the services which it gives to its membership by building the kind of world in which we want to live."

Following the reports of the district and the chapters given respectively by Boone Schirmer of Harvard and Rema Lapousse of Boston university, Mr. Russell Bardwell from the striking International Seamen's union spoke on the local strike issues and on general conditions in the shipping industry.

"The conditions under which most seamen have been sailing would be almost inconceivable if I were to describe them to you," began Mr. Bardwell, who has just returned from his last job in the industry to the strike area and was immediately pressed into speaking for the union. "For example the average wage has been about $62.50 per month."

Mr. Bardwell emphasized the fact that this strike was not an "outlaw" strike as it has been characterized by the American Federation of Labor, but represented the legitimate desires of the rank and file to exercise their power of referendum over the recent agreement concluded between the corrupt union officers and the ship owners against the wishes of the membership. In Mr. Bardwell's opinion the reports from the West coast were most encouraging concerning the success of the strike and have undoubtedly been reflected in latest developments in the Gulf and Eastern areas. Mr. Bardwell summarized the demands of the Eastern strikers; to get $90 wages per month, to control the hiring halls (effect a closed shop) and to abolish overtime work.

The evening meeting was given over to a healthy discussion of the issues to be brought up at the National convention in Chicago during the Christmas holidays. Avram Goldstein presented the Harvard resolutions on the subject of political activities of the union and Jeffrey Campbell of the WCSF led the discussion of the Oxford pledge and the stand of the ASU on the problem of collective security.

Discussion Includes Right, Left Views

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able statement, said Mr. Ratcliffe, showing that Mr. Dennis had made no defense of the system he favors. Mr. Ratcliffe feels that the alternatives to democracy are so appalling that he would defend our present system with all its faults. Dictators want only power, obtained by violence and coercion and involving war on cultural values. The dictators' creed of infallible rightness has prevailed because of social uncertainty, but in the future humanity cannot live within those walls. Government interference has brought about genuine recovery in Great Britain and the United States, where a freedom of the electorate has been maintained, and government by one party does not exist at the expense of free debate.

All forms of self government, Mr. Ratcliffe pointed out, are extremely young, and reconstruction is inevitable. Britain may lag behind other countries in social equality, but the recent abdication of Edward expresses the essential will of the people, affirming their unity, proving the country's democracy.

"There are no dangerous people in the world," said Mr. Ratcliffe, "except dictators."

Mr. Sweezy, instructor in the department of economics at Harvard, gave a simple exposition of dictatorship from the left. The Marxists, a term including both communists and socialists, have a hatred of injustice and oppression, a love of peace, and an admiration for the cultural and scientific accomplishments of the human mind. To obtain these values they would abolish private property as the means of production. While a fascist dictator despises the principles of democracy, believing that the masses exist only to be led, the Marxist dictator works for a society where the principles of democracy can act as fully as they do in theory.

Mr. Long, instructor in the department of government at Harvard, rose to a militant defense of democracy. He believes that the individual is the social and political unit of value, that happiness is not the monopoly of any class. America has tremendous resources; the middle and working classes must form a strong organization to defend democracy and prevent the continual process of social amelioration.

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CHRISTMAS SENTIMENT

For several centuries people have defended man's right to freedom, his right to self-preservation or to the pursuit of happiness. William James has even defended his pragmatic Right to Believe. At this season, however, we feel it our unalienable privilege to take up the cudgels for one of man's rights most thoroughly discredited nowadays. That is, we propose to defend (now prepare yourselves; it's going to be a shock) man's Right to Be Sentimental. In the words of the great historian, we think it is a Good Thing.

That is, whether it snows or not on the day we go carolling is a matter of vital importance. The correct kind of mistletoe—the kind with the waxy white berries—makes a great deal of difference in our lives. And we need not feel silly when we thrill all over at Ye Traditional Olde Englishe Carols. Another Right to Sentimentality which we have always cherished is reading *Christmas Carol* aloud, *every year*. We must shiver at Marley's head on the knocker, and we could not endure a season without the Cratchitts' Christmas dinner, all the girls so brave in ribbons, and Mama one vast substantial smile.

Nor can any one take away from us our family customs. Heresy it is, either to open the gifts BEFORE Christmas breakfast, or ON Christmas Eve, depending on which your habit is. Yours may be the kind of orthodoxy which prohibits peeking at stockings before six o'clock in the morning. Ours was the sort which defended it. In either case, do it for Auld Lang Syne and the Christmas Spirit.

Particularly poignant to us is the picture of David Windsor in a foreign country at this time. An Englishman spending Christmas out of England means something genuinely pathetic. Let us not be ashamed of a lumpiness in the throat at the old, old words "God Save the King," as they came over the air last Friday, and then, with a fervor like Tiny Tim's, "God bless you all."

Make Hay While the Sun Shines

Think back over the months since September. Have we made the most of the opportunities offered us here at Wellesley? We know we have not, and we doubt if you have either. Last Wednesday the Verse Speaking choir presented Christmas poetry through the ages, and how many of us went? Just a small knot of people lost in the big chapel. We were all invited, but we didn't bother, and we shall not have another opportunity to hear the choir until next spring, and then admission will be charged. What is the matter with us? Do we value only what we have to pay for? The Verse Speaking choir is uniquely Wellesley's, and we are letting the chance of hearing them, slip by. And it is not only the choir. When well known lecturers come, we are uninterested or apathetic. Yet after we graduate, we shall jump at the chance to hear some of these same people we just do not have time for now. Of course our programs are full; we think there is never time for anything we really want to do, and we rush frantically from class to class, but let us stop and consider and make the most of our opportunities while we are here at Wellesley.

RUBBER STAMPS

A triumph for democracy is the result of England's recent crisis. S. K. Ratcliffe, speaking at the last Foreign Policy meeting, and Dorothy Thompson, writing in last Sunday's *Times*, are only two of the many eminent people who have expressed this view. Britain's government in this situation has proved that a democracy can have all the efficiency with none of the violence and repressive force of a dictatorship. Furthermore, says Dorothy Thompson, "the demonstration of the last ten days has been worth more to the prestige of Great Britain than battleships."

Encouraging are these statements, and we should like to emphasize especially the fact that a democracy avoids the rigid grouping of ideas under "Right" and "Left" which war has caused in Spain. Before his abdication, Edward was accused by some people of fascist tendencies; by others of pro-socialist ideas. We deplore these stereotypes, "Fascist," "Socialist." Ideas in a democracy may have free play without being drawn up in rigid and militant alignment.

In our own college attitudes we are apt to settle down in one camp ready for war with opponents in the next camp of thought. Students at Columbia, angered at the radical tendencies of the *Spectator*, have formed an opposing group called "The Blue Shirts." Neither of these rubber stamp organizations, the *Spectator* or "The Blue Shirts," represent the urbanity and tolerance that should exist in a university. We can never hope to preserve our democracy if, even in college, our preparation for life, we seek regimentation and standardization of our thoughts.

BIT OF ADVICE

Merry Christmas; It is an old greeting and one which brings to the mind's eye a picture of warmth and cheer and peace. Yet we, in this era of rush and hurry, ignore its essential greeting and set ourselves upon a round of frantic excitement. Can the Christmas round give us any lasting value other than physical exhaustion, any lingering memories other than the hectic stories we feverishly report on our first night back at school?

Perhaps some may feel it necessary to be at the beck and call of a thousand and one people. We, on the other hand, cannot help feeling that such a practise diminishes pleasure. Nothing worth while is given away, and we hate to think that anyone is free to pluck a piece from us at any time. As Maudie says, we do not want to be a sausage—anybody's meat. We would prefer to keep ourselves intact for the things we *really* want to do, not for the thousand things that must be done to keep astride the demands of many chance acquaintances.

Perhaps it is anachronistic to call upon the pagan Greek philosophers for aid in our Christmas program. They, however, knew the benefit and wisdom accruing from a program of moderation. They conserved their energy, "concentr'd in a life intense." Their sanity is the basis for all healthful living. The Chinese, with their Confucian religion and way of life of moderation, also hold the key to wise living. Only the Americans, with their drug-store counter hurry, have forgotten the lesson of leisure.

Let us try to relive the true picture of a merry Christmas. We are sure we shall gain a joy more lasting than any hectic three weeks. Warmth and cheer and peace—Merry Christmas!

Do or Die

This week, Wellesley had the privilege of hearing two speakers who said that they were willing to die for their causes and meant what they said. Seeing and feeling their absolute conviction was a unique experience, marking December 14 a red-letter day. We have to believe that causes backed by such utter sincerity will succeed.

FREE PRESS COLUMN

All contributions for this column must be signed with the full name of the author. Initials or numerals will be used if the writer so desires.

The Editors do not hold themselves responsible for opinions and statements in this column.

Contributions should be in the hands of the Editors by 11 A. M. on Monday.

Born On Time

To the Wellesley College News:

I have often heard complaints because the performances of Barnswallows do not begin at the scheduled time. At Barn Formals, I discovered the reason. The cast was ready; the committees were ready; but the audience was not ready. At quarter to eight the first few people came in. At eight o'clock the hall was about one-third full. Although the performance was ready to begin, the audience was not ready to receive it. Bells were rung at intervals, and the curtain went up at twenty after eight to a noisy audience filling about two-thirds of the hall. People were not allowed to enter during the performance, so a noisy crowd gathered outside the doors disturbing those who wished to enjoy the first act. It is only courteous to give the actors a chance to do their best, an impossibility under such conditions. If the performance had begun on time, there would have been twenty more minutes of dancing. It is only to your own advantage to be on time. Let's make Spring Informals a better event by letting the curtain rise at eight o'clock to a quiet audience.

Dorothy Stillwell, 1937

Art For The Asking

To the Wellesley College News:

Several weeks ago I outlined in the NEWS a project for renting fine reproductions of paintings by old and modern artists. Because the plan has been extraordinarily successful in other colleges I expected a response at Wellesley that would make it possible to start the rental collection on its rounds by the first of December, but up to date the only persons who have expressed a desire to take advantage of such an opportunity to enjoy on their own walls fine facsimile reproductions have been two or three members of the faculty, one or two students, and a half dozen residents of the town.

In the current *New Yorker* Lewis Mumford delivers "a sermon on the Art of Graphic Reproduction, or how to keep a blessing from turning into a curse." He approves the Japanese practice of not using pictures as permanent wall decorations; of looking at one picture at a time; of changing pictures frequently. The use of reproductions he says, "is to whet the appetite and extend the capacity for appreciation, so that one is ready to recognize a good thing when one sees it—even if it is the single product of an unknown artist." This expresses our own convictions. Therefore we shall keep on talking about the advantages of a circulating collection of prints until enough people understand what it is all about to subscribe to the plan. We are optimistic enough to believe that we shall have enough members by the second semester to begin lending pictures. And we hope there will be students among the subscribers, since it was for them primarily that the plan was initiated.

Geraldine Gordon
Hathaway House Bookshop

Poinsettias To You

To the Wellesley College News:

It was with great surprise that I learned, through your paper, of my "notoriety" as one of last year's "success" graduates. Seriously, I doubt if I shall ever live down the fact that Dame Fortune was kinder to me than to the other fifty-odd teachers who graduated with me from the University of Toledo—what price notoriety?

However, I do want to thank you for the space you allotted me in your paper; you were mighty generous, I assure you, to one who just had a good break in securing a position this year.

Although I attended school in the middle west, I am a native of dear old Massachusetts, and, believe me, every bit of the news in your paper was like hearing from home. I am a native of Lynn, and, needless to say, although I do not recall distinctly if any of my friends are attending Wellesley, your paper came as a breath of New England, and the Massachusetts which I love so dearly.

Right now, when you are having freezing weather in Massachusetts, we are "suffering" through a winter of azure skies which are banked with graceful, fleecy white clouds. Poinsettias are in full bloom now, and are growing on trees as tall as our New England lilac bushes. "Too true," gardenias and jasmine bloom here as plentifully as dandelions do in lawns in the summer.

In a few days, on December 17 in fact, I shall be leaving this tropical beauty and warmth to spend a white Christmas in Lynn. Perhaps you are quite disgusted with the snow and cold weather up there now, but truly, neither Christmas nor the proverbial "Christmas spirit" can be thoroughly appreciated amid graceful palms and ever-blooming flowers. The poinsettias are the only reminder of Christmas.

Keep up the good work in your editions of your paper; your first page's "spread" is certainly an excellent one—from this remark, perhaps you've guessed I worked on my college paper, too, and it is great sport, isn't it?

Thank you again for giving me a bit of New England news.

Peter B. Skalkos
Las Marias, Puerto Rico

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *This letter is an answer to the Associated Collegiate press item printed in the November 25* NEWS.)

Puppy Wisdom

In the shopping crowd
Of Boston town
They push and pull,
Though arms are full.

"If I were home,"
A male voice groans.
"If I had wings,"
A female tone rings.

But the pup, he is wise.
By the fire he lies,
Sleepy and content,
With no shopping intent.

In Disgroce

Plato was a wise man, 'tis true,
And a poet-writer, too.
I wonder what he would say
If he saw me struggling away,
Trying to translate
At a shameful rate.

I look up words with care,
I study old notes rare.
I connect phrases queer
With handy verbs near.
But in the end I sigh,
For no idea have I.

To An Earthworm

O Lumbricus Terrestris
Of Phylum Annulata
With little chaetopoda,
To my indignant ode, list.

For you are the cause of woe,
Of feverish nights untold,
Of roll calls, cruel and cold,
And messy drawings, also.

You have no simplicity,
O great earthworm and sublime;
For you claim much of my time
With your systems and setae.

The dorsal vessels and blood
In your circulatory plan,
With its queer parietal band,
My weary brain do benumb.

A ventral here and neurals there,
Capillaries included too,
And pairs of hearts colored blue,
All make me pull my hair.

Lucky the holidays are near.
I'll banish you from my sight.
I'll sleep in peace at night,
And of quizzes have no fear.

Advice

Rain, rain, go away,
Never come on a Barn day.

Lassies clad in satin or lace
Dislike so, your cloudy face.

What you do to dainty curls
Is maddening to many girls.

What you do to pretty shoes
Causes you a storm of boos.

So rain, rain, go away
Never come on a Barn day.

An Old Story

Tomorrow I must start
To diet—yes, I must.
No more candy and tarts,
No more pie and crust.

Coffee without cream, please.
No more ice cream for me.
Green salads will appease
My gnawing tummy.

So I reason bravely.
Comes the day,
All reason quickly
Fades away.

CAMPUS CRITIC

Rain From Heaven

In choosing *Rain from Heaven* for a Fall Formals audience, Barnswallows showed discerning judgment. The fact that it is a problem play, dealing with as serious a theme as religious persecution, and yet containing enough comedy relief to prevent its becoming heavy, shows that Barn is taking the audience into consideration. However, any play is difficult to produce in a hall as large as Alumnae. The intimacy of a small theater is necessary to a production of this type in which dialogue and psychological progression are of primary importance, and plot almost negligible. Those unfortunates not sitting in the first fifteen or twenty rows missed many of the all-important details imparted solely by the dialogue.

Deborah Pike, as *Lady Violet*, was by far the outstanding member of the cast. Her poise, vivacity and facial expressions, stage presence, voice and interpretation of the role resulted in an almost professionally smooth performance at a level which the others did not attain. Andrew Rebori, playing *Hugo Willens*, a German utterly disillusioned by religious persecution and resulting exile, was the best of the men. His acting was consistent, if somewhat too heavy and slow. His stiffness of carriage and awkward use of his hands detracted greatly from his performance.

Robert Gordon, as *Rand Eldridge*, was decidedly miscast. His voice was poor, he was unsure of himself in his role, and he was much too weak and youthful in appearance for the part. Jack Chapin, in the role of *Hobart Eldridge*, was stiff, but his drunk scene in the second act was good.

Dorothy Grimes, as *Phoebe Eldridge*, was excellent as comedy relief and showed good stage presence. Ruth Dattner, Ted Lisberger, and P. H. Weatherill were adequate.

The girls in the cast were superior to the men, on the whole, giving more nearly professional performances. Harvard men have been much more successful in Wellesley productions in the past than their M. I. T. rivals.

The setting was well executed, providing an excellent background for Deborah Pike's dresses. The lighting was effective, especially in the twilight scene in the second act.

The audience, because of the size of the auditorium, was divided in its reaction to the play, those sitting toward the front being more appreciative on the whole than those in the rear and in the balcony. The scintillating dialogue was not lost on the audience, but they were not as intelligently receptive as they would have been had they all been able to hear well and follow the action. Barn is to be congratulated for putting on so good a production in the face of the difficulties presented by the size of the auditorium.

S. M. W. '38

Christmas Vespers

The carolling of *Les Anges*, a French song, by the Madrigal group was a surprise beginning of the vocal part of Christmas Vespers on December 13. After the organ *Prelude and Fugue in G major*, the Wellesley college choir entered Memorial chapel singing *O Come, All Ye Faithful*.

The invocation by Miss McAfee was followed by two Bach chorales by the Choir, the brilliant *To God on High* and the reverently tender *O My Deir Hert*.

Four carols from three nations were offered next by the Choir. In contrasting moods were *Hark, Bethlehem* and *Hark in the Darkness*, both Polish Christmas songs. The first was joyous and light while in the second the swelling and receding hum of the chorus was a mellow background for the clear soprano solo by Carolyn W. Parker, '37. The expressive German carol, *In Dulci Jubilo*, was followed by the old English melody, *The Holly and the Ivy*, in which the sopranos carried the verse and the whole Choir came in on the refratn.

After a hymn by the congregation the Choir sang the modern Hungarian arrangement of *A Christmas Carol* by Kodaly. This selection, seldom heard in America, was unusual in the beauty of its minor harmonies. *Christmas Song* by Holst was an anthem of praise, bright and glorious.

In an interlude of organ music, Mr. Greene, director of the Wellesley college Choir, played the *Pastoral Symphony* from the *Messiah*. The last choral group began with the dancing *Bring a Torch*, a traditional French carol. The changes of mood within this one song illustrated the sensitive creative ability of the 1936 Choir.

The Gascon *Qu'il Est Aimable* was a carol of adoration, sung in quietly "vital" tones. The Choir's concluding selection was the majestic *Hallelujah, Amen* from Handel's *Judas Maccabeus*. After the prayer and benediction the Choir sang the response *To My Humble Supplication* by Holst. The recessional hymn, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, was followed by the organ postlude, *Hallelujah Chorus* from the *Messiah*, by Handel.

M. M. '39

WPA Production

To enjoy the Works Progress administration play, *Life's a Villain*, one must frankly recognize that the WPA is a courageous experiment to establish a community theatre. The Federal project is a valuable addition to theatre life because, for a great part of its audience, it is effecting a transition from the "canned talk" of the motion-picture to the vitality of the legitimate drama. It is also unconsciously revealing to its more blasé theatre-goers the difficult stages between the birth of a play and its finished production.

The play itself, *Life's a Villain*, is an attempt at satire on the upper classes with their futile, destructive way of looking at life. Accidentally, Madge Graham, a poor girl, comes into the lives of the Holts. She manages to show this family that all the values of life are not implicit in the possession of money. But very little develops from this theme except that she finally marries young Holt. The theme gets lost in a maze of side-issues, and the motivation for the various developments is often weak.

To work with an amateurish play is a disadvantage which might have been lessened only by skillful acting. But the acting was over-obvious, especially in the parts of Vivian Taylor and Margaret Holt, played by Elizabeth Hendrick and Evelyn Dorn. The actors lacked control and restraint both in movement and in intonation. Frank Thomas as T. Roger Holt, the self-made man, and Joseph Wilson as Bascom Troop, his publicity agent, gave hearty and convincing interpretations of their roles.

The unit set of *Life's a Villain* with its restful cream-colored walls, the rust curtains and a soft green Venetian blind hung over the window was attractive. The shadow outlines of Blue Heron lake seen from the verandah, center-back, immediately placed the setting. The effective scene was very well adapted to the play.

V. C. '37

Lecturer Reviews Situation In Spain

(Continued from Page 2, Col. 5)

a new constitution. This was completed in December of 1931. Women were given equal rights with men.

The Republic made a five-year plan for education. 27,000 schools were to be opened for the average of 60% illiterate people in the country. Sums were appropriated to the schools, and teachers trained in normal schools. Salaries were raised. New budgets dedicated large sums to the rebuilding of churches, cathedrals, and other public buildings that had been going to ruin. Libraries were opened. Canteens were provided where children could get proper food. Pedagogical missions went out to invoke a curiosity for knowledge so that parents would send their children to school instead of keeping them in the fields.

But discontent was created among three classes. First, large landowners were upset because the government took away or bought their lands. Second, most of the Roman Catholics, who wanted temporal rather than spiritual power, did not like the fact

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 1)

CAROLLERS SING IN FRENCH

The French department played host to a large group of Christmas carollers, who were reinforced in their singing by M. de Messieres and Mr. Haroutunian, in the great hall of Tower from 7 to 7:30 in the last of the Monday evening series on December 14. In the center of the circle gathered around the piano were the three little de Messieres who did their part sturdily.

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Lecturer Reviews Situation In Spain

(Continued from Page 5, Col. 4)

that the church was separated from the state, and that religious freedom was granted the people. Third, the army did not like it because the republic tried to reduce it in number and to relegate it to its proper mission of defending the government, not of interfering in politics. At that time there had been the ridiculous proportion of five soldiers to every general.

In 1933 a new election brought in the right wing. For two years they had power. In 1936 new elections were called, resulting in a left coalition.

There were in Parliament only 15 communists out of 572 members, no cause for alarm. On July 17 France led an uprising in Morocco; civil war in Spain followed. The people were quick to resist another military dictator. This September the president decided that all the popular front should be represented in the cabinet.

The people's slogan is that they are fighting for the democracy of the world and that they would rather die standing up than spend the rest of their lives on their knees. Senora de Palencia believes that the people will never give in; that only unconditional surrender of the invader, for Franco is in charge of foreign, not Spanish troops, will be rational and possible to the people. Her voice rang with fervent sincerity as she said, in closing, that Spain's culture may some day reach again its former glory.

GROUPS PRESENT PLAY

With the Madrigal group providing background of Christmas melodies, the Theater workshop and Christian association presented *The Nativity*, the second of the Chester Miracle plays, in the chapel, December 14 at 8:30 p.m. The producers endcavored to prescnt the play in the same manner in which it was produced in the fourteenth century, except for the language, transcribed into modern English.

The costumes added to the atmosphere of pageantry. The many scenes were enacted before three "stations" as was originally done. The appeal of the play arose chiefly from sincerity and simplicity.

Miss Edith M. Smaill of the speech department directed the production.

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Buddy,

I can't pay a higher compliment than that.

Girl or cigarette . . . when I tumble that means I'm for 'em.

Chesterfield's *my* cigarette. And I'll tell all hands they've got a hearty good taste that makes a sailor happy. And listen, they're milder.

. . . for the good things a cigarette can give a sailor

I'll sign up with Chesterfields

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